

# LOCAL DO'S

## A NIGHT TO REMEMBER: BMUST DINNER DANCE, 2015



continued on page 2

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# BMUST

Bellmore-Merrick United Secondary Teachers



## **Honors Our New Retirees and Recognizes All the Years of Service and Dedication**

**Merle Amster – Merrick Avenue Middle School**  
**Barbara Farchione – Merrick Avenue Middle School**  
**Patricia Frenz – Merrick Avenue Middle School**  
**Joan Kleinman – Merrick Avenue Middle School**

### **2015 BMUST AWARD WINNERS**

#### **Outstanding Professionals**

**Anthony DeMartinis - Kennedy High School**  
**Barbara Farchione - Merrick Avenue Middle School**  
**Heather Glick - Calhoun High School**  
**William Leacock - Mepham High School**  
**Arthur Schnee - Grand Avenue Middle School**  
**Jennifer Weinstein - Meadowbrook Alternative Program**

#### **Lou DeFilippo Outstanding Union Service Award**

**Carolyn Condenzio – Grand Avenue Middle School**

#### **Para Special Service Award**

**Maria Vogelsang – Mepham High School**

#### **PTA Award**

**Marcia Eisenmesser – Co-President, Bellmore-Merrick Coordinating Council of PTA's**

#### **President's Choice Award**

**Kim Black – Administrative Assistant, Bellmore-Merrick United Secondary Teachers**

#### **Patricia Christy Outstanding Retiree Award**

**Jane Kline – Vice-President, Bellmore-Merrick Retired Teachers Association**

#### **Community Service Award**

**Kerry Dennis – Mepham High School**  
**Christopher Patten – Mepham High School**

**Friend of Education Award Scott Brinton, Senior Editor, Herald Newspapers**



## So, where do we go from here?

Grass root efforts involving educators and parents here on Long Island have had a significant impact on our ongoing battle with Governor Cuomo and his misguided education agenda. With the Math and ELA state assessments behind us, and an opt-out rate over 60%, we should all feel a sense of accomplishment. Statewide, close to 200,000 students and their parents chose not to participate in the assessment tests. That's remarkable and certainly an indication that the rallies, forums, billboards, Herald ads, phone calls, letter writing, faxes, and texts have been successful. Legislators have not been able to turn a deaf ear to our message,

Many have been critical of what they perceive to be a lack of leadership from NYSUT on these issues. Many feel they have come to "the party" late and their

"Reclaiming the Joy of Teaching and Learning" rallies Friday, May 15 were poorly received, at least locally. Having gone to many meetings with NYSUT leaders, including Matt Jacobs, who is the Nassau Regional Office Director, I have heard about the work they do




**Mark Steinberg,**  
**President, BMUST**

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which represents and supports school children and their parents. It is in this way that progress is being made.

Yet, there is still more work to be done. While some of the deleterious aspects of Cuomo's education "reforms" have been mitigated, there are still many troubling components to the bill. At the NYSUT RA President's Conference I attended in Buffalo, I participated in a workshop that provided an update on critical issues in public education. Members of the NYSUT Legal department and other staff members offered their analysis of changes that the education bill will have on teacher tenure, APPR, 3020-A, re-registration, and receiverships. They described their efforts with Legislators and the four new Regents as one that will continue to modify the bill that passed in April. There are reasons to be optimistic, since many politicians in Albany have been backtracking in their support of this legislation. How far they back track will depend on the efforts of parents and teachers across the state as well as the leadership of NYSUT in Albany.

and the court cases they are fighting. I have tried to pass along information through e-mails to bring attention to what they are doing for all of us. I will continue to share with my Board of Trustees and Representative Assembly information that I receive from NYSUT. Perhaps we have been attending different parties. Whatever the reason, NYSUT must do a better job conveying how they are leading the battle against Governor Cuomo.

In an attempt to get their message out and perhaps come to "the party", NYSUT has put out a 9-point legislative plan to help educators and students "Reclaim the Joy of Teaching and Learning." NYSUT is working to ensure that the Board of Regents adopts a fair and meaningful evaluation system. As President Karen Magee stated, "If the state is serious about improving the future of our children and its public K-12 and higher-education systems, then it must provide students and educators the teaching and learning conditions necessary to succeed." NYSUT's 9-point plan will certainly be their guide, as well as ours, as we move forward to protect public education here in New York. 

continued on page 4

**NYSUT's 9-point plan specifically calls on the N.Y. State Senate and Assembly to:**

- **Free school aid from the November 2015 deadline for APPR.**
- **Remove test scores from APPR.**
- **Support local decision-making in the hiring, tenure and disciplining of teachers.**
- **Amend the receivership provision to give struggling schools a true year or more to turn around and show improvement.**
- **Reform the tax cap to allow for common-sense exemptions or adjustments for things like enrollment growth.**
- **Pass legislation supporting parents' right to opt their children out of developmentally inappropriate tests.**
- **Retain local control and repeal mandatory outside evaluators.**
- **Enact and implement true charter school accountability.**
- **Support community schools legislation.**

Thank you for all that you do.

*Mark*





## “VICTORY LAP!”

BY LAUREN BEINERT (MAMS), LOCAL DO'S WRITER

**The sun was shining, students were smiling, and the crowd was cheering.**

As the children were completing their victory lap they were beaming. These children are not ordinary children; they are each special in their own way. They each have differences that make them unique. That makes them special! The students from Merrick Avenue were joined by the students from the Prep Program at Calhoun High School and our neighboring elementary schools for this one day special event that made each student feel like a champion! The goal of the Merrick Challenge is to create awareness in the community by building upon these differences and making the children feel a part of something that is much bigger than anyone could ever imagine!



**FROM LORRILEE GERACI, MEPHAM H.S.**

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you all for your generosity, support, good wishes and kind thoughts during what proved to be a difficult surgery and recovery for me. I am well and will be returning to work for a few days to get back into the groove of things. For those of you I will not see before the end of the school year, I wish each of you a restful and rejuvenating summer!

In solidarity,

LorriLee Geraci, Mepham H.S.



## M.A.P. HAPPENINGS

BY LAURA SHERIDAN, (M.A.P.), LOCAL DO'S WRITER

### CONGRATULATIONS TO ...

**Dr. Joe Netto**—along with **Robyn Einbinder** (Mepham/ Calhoun) and the Young Ambassadors—on the success of the first annual One Voice One Message One Run 5K Run/Walk.



**Joe Corea** (Math) on the baseball field at Calhoun High School being dedicated in his name!

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### M.A.P. VOLUNTEERS!

Each Friday afternoon, M.A.P. members volunteer with Rock and Wrap It Up! by picking up leftover food at GAMS and MAMS and delivering it to the Rosa Parks INN.

M.A.P. raised \$36 for St. Baldrick's, donated on behalf of Halle Steel who had her head shaved.

Under the tutelage of Steve Rose, five of our students are helping out at Family Project at GAMS.

**GRAND AVENUE: IN THE BMUST SPOTLIGHT!**  
**BY PIA SANTODONATO, (GRAND AVE.), LOCAL DO'S WRITER**



CONGRATULATIONS, CAROLYN & ARTHUR!

**The BMUST Outstanding Service Award goes to: CAROLYN CONDENZIO.**

**The BMUST Outstanding Professional Award goes to: ARTHUR SCHNEE.**



The New Turf Field Ribbon Cutting Ceremony was held on Tuesday, May 12th 2015. The Cheerleaders and Kick line performed.



**Babies in the News:**

**Carrie Perkins Hamilton** (Physical Education) gave birth to a baby girl: London Avery Hamilton 9 lbs 21.5 inches on 4/14/15!

**Holly Diaz** (English) gave birth to a baby girl: Avery Brynn Diaz-Funston 6 lbs 10oz 20in on 5/13/15!



Grand Ave has been hosting fundraising events this month for different organizations which include "Caps for a Cause" for Camp Anchor A-Team Autism Awareness.

The World Language Department celebrated Cinco De Mayo by having an Empanada Truck selling sweet and savory choices to the students and staff.



## Benefits that matter to you!

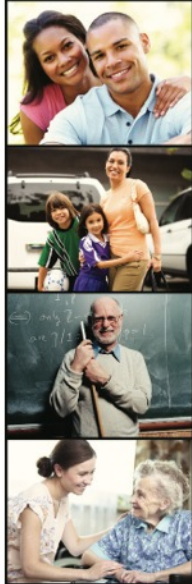
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